

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 EA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 COME-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
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O 101407Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4104
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16000

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: GINZBURG TRIAL AS OF MID-DAY JULY 10

1. ACCORDING TO TELEPHONED REPORT FROM EMBOFF
(SECOND SECRETARY BENJAMIN TUA) ON SCENE, GINZBURG
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TRIAL BEGAN AS SCHEDULED MORNING OF JULY 10.
GINZBURG'S MOTHER AND HIS WIFE WERE ADMITTED.
EMBOFF MADE SEVERAL REQUESTS TO BE ADMITTED DURING
COURSE OF MORNING: HE WAS FIRST TOLD HE WAS TOO
EARLY, THEN WAS ASKED IF HE HAD AN INVITATION, AND
FINALLY WAS INFORMED THAT THE COURTROOM WAS FULL.
ADMISSION WAS ALSO DENIED TO OFFICERS OF THE FOUR

OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES ON HAND, THE DUTCH, BRITISH, CANADIAN, AND AUSTRALIAN.

2. ADMISSION OBVIOUSLY WAS ALSO DENIED TO THE FEW WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS AT THE COURTHOUSE (ALTHOUGH THEY RECEIVED SOMETHING OF A BRIEFING BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT WHO HAD TRAVELED TO KALUGA FOR THE OCCASION), AS WELL AS TO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF GINZBURG. ANDREY SAKHAROV ARRIVED AT THE KALUGA COURTHOUSE AT MID-DAY, WAS DENIED ENTRANCE, AND MADE A STATEMENT TO THE WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS.

3. DURING TRIAL RECESS AT ABOUT ONE P.M., GINZBURG'S WIFE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT:

--GINZBURG APPEARED TO BE IN VERY POOR HEALTH, WITH HIS HAIR ALMOST COMPLETELY WHITE; HE HAD AGED BY SOME TWENTY YEARS, AND HAD TROUBLE STANDING WHILE THE ACCUSATION WAS BEING READ;

--HE PLED NOT GUILTY TO THE MAIN CHARGE OF RETAINING AND DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE HARMFUL TO THE SOVIET STATE; SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED WERE SOLZHENITSYN'S "GULAG", THE TEXT OF SOLZHENITSYN'S AFL-CIO ADDRESS, THE BOOK "SAKHAROV SPEAKS", AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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JOURNALS "VESTNIK" AND "KONTINENT";

--GINZBURG TOLD COURT HE PLANNED TO MAKE NO STATEMENTS, BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO MAKE A STATEMENT AT A LATER DATE;

--THUS FAR NO DEFENSE WITNESSES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TESTIFY;

--MRS. GINZBURG EXPECTS THAT THE TRIAL WILL LAST NO MORE THAN TWO OR THREE DAYS.

4. EMBOFF REPORTS THAT THE THIRTY OR SO MILITIAMEN AND PLAINCLOTHESMEN AROUND THE COURTHOUSE HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED AND CORRECT THUS FAR IN HANDLING THE FOREIGNERS AND SOVIET FRIENDS OF GINZBURG. HE ALSO REPORTS THAT ALL OF THE TELEPHONES IN THE LOCAL HOTEL ARE "UNDER REPAIR" AND INOPERATIVE, AND THAT THE TELEPHONE IN HIS ROOM HAS BEEN PARTIALLY RIPPED FROM THE WALL (APPARENTLY FOR GOOD MEASURE). EMBOFF HAS BEEN SURVEILLED BUT NOT HARASSED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. MATLOCK

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